

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 5 and cancel claims 13 and 14. Please find provided below a single complete listing of all the claims in the application, marked to show their status and current changes, pursuant to MPEP § 714.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A connector comprising a housing and a required number of pusher members, said housing including a fitting aperture into which at least three flexible printed circuit boards are inserted, said housing further including an insertion opening for holding said required number of pusher members so that when said flexible printed circuit boards are inserted into said fitting aperture of said housing, contact portions of said at least three flexible printed circuit boards are urged by said pusher members so as to be connected to each other to achieve electrical continuity of the connector, wherein said pusher members have substantially a U-shape and are formed of a unitary part and said pusher members each comprise pushing portions extending towards the flexible printed circuit boards.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A connector comprising a housing and a required number of pusher members, said housing including a fitting aperture into which two flexible printed circuit boards are inserted, said housing further including insertion openings for holding said required number of pusher members so that when said flexible printed circuit boards are inserted into said fitting aperture of said housing, contact portions of said two flexible printed circuit boards are urged by said pusher members so as to be connected to each other to achieve electrical continuity of the connector, wherein said

pusher members have substantially a U-shape and are formed of a unitary part and said pusher members each comprise pushing portions extending towards the flexible printed circuit boards.

Claim 3 (original): The connector as set forth in claim 1 wherein said contact portions of said at least three flexible printed circuit boards are arranged in opposition to each other such that said contact portions can be connected on being urged against each other by said pusher members.

Claim 4 (original): The connector as set forth in claim 2 wherein said contact portions of said two flexible printed circuit boards are arranged in opposition to each other such that said contact portions can be connected on being urged against each other by said pusher members.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The connector as set forth in claim 3 or 4 further comprising positioning means for said flexible printed circuit boards.

Claim 6 (original): The connector as set forth in claim 5 wherein said at least three flexible printed circuit boards are each formed with slits between the adjacent contact portions.

Claim 7 (original): The connector as set forth in claim 5 wherein either, or both, of said flexible printed circuit boards are each formed with slits between the contact portions.

Claim 8 (original): The connector as set forth in claim 5 wherein said at least three flexible printed circuit boards are formed with slits between each pair of two adjacent contact portions.

Claim 9 (original): The connector as set forth in claim 5 wherein either, or both, of said flexible printed circuit boards are formed with slits between pairs of each two adjacent contact portions.

Claim 10 (original): The connector as set forth in claim 5 wherein said at least three flexible printed circuit boards are each formed with slits between the adjacent contact portions arbitrarily selected to provide a compliance to said adjacent contact portions.

Claim 11 (original): The connector as set forth in claim 5 wherein either, or both, of said flexible printed circuit boards are each formed with slits between the adjacent contact portions arbitrarily selected to provide a compliance to said adjacent contact portions.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The connector as set forth in claim 6 wherein said positioning means comprises flanges at longitudinal ends of said housing, each of said flanges being provided with a pin, and said flexible printed circuit boards are formed with apertures for receiving said pins such that when said pins are received in said apertures of said flexible printed circuit boards, said contact portions of said flexible printed circuit boards positionally coincide with each other.

Claims 13-14 (cancelled):

Claim 15 (previously presented): The connector as set forth in claim 4 further comprising positioning means for said flexible printed circuit boards.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The connector as set forth in claim 11 wherein said positioning means comprises flanges at longitudinal ends of said housing, each of said flanges being provided with a pin, and said flexible printed circuit boards are formed with apertures for receiving said pins such that when said pins are received in said apertures of said flexible printed circuit boards, said contact portions of said flexible printed circuit boards positionally coincide with each other.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-16 were pending in the application.

Claims 2, 4 and 15 were rejected under Section 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,350,319 to Roberts.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6-11 were rejected as rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,350,319, to Roberts, U.S. Patent No. 4,975,068, to Squires, or U.S. Patent No. 5,163,847, to Regnier, alone or in combination.

Claims 12-14 and 16 were objected to solely for depending on a rejected base claim.

Summary of Applicants' Response

Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled.